

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sitka Center Awarded More than \$60,000 in Grants**

*OTIS, OR – September 5, 2012* – Good news has come in threes this spring and summer at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, which announced today three grants totaling \$62,000 in support of capital improvements, operations and programs.

In April, The Ford Family Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Sitka Center for renovations to the Boyden Studio, Sitka's oldest and largest studio. Renovations retained the building's natural, woodland aesthetic while giving it a major uplift that increased the comfort, flexibility and energy efficiency of the space, including a new roof, windows and insulation, dimmable lights and remote-controlled shades. Construction on this treasured space ended in May just in time for Sitka's summer workshop season and Mingle and Muse series of free public art events. Read more about these programs at [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org).

The Ford Family Foundation was established in 1957 by Kenneth W. and Hallie E. Ford. Its mission is "successful citizens and vital rural communities" in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. The Foundation is located in Roseburg, OR, with a Scholarship office in Eugene.

The Sitka Center received more good news this summer from the Oregon Arts Commission, which awarded a \$10,000 Operating Support Grant to the Center. This grant will help Sitka continue to offer high-quality, intensive art workshops, engaging public art events and residencies to artists, writers, musicians and environmental scientists from around the world. The Sitka Center was one of 99 organizations from across the state receiving grants through the Commission's Operating Support, Arts Services and Arts Learning programs.

The Oregon Arts Commission was established in 1967 to foster the arts in Oregon and ensure their excellence. Nine Commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine policies, establish long-range plans and review applications to grants programs to determine funding levels. The Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Christine D'Arcy, the Commission's executive director, explained that the programs supported by these grants "pay dividends to Oregon through job retention, community vitality, and lifelong learning for our citizens."

Finally, within days of the Commission's announcement, Sitka received news that the William T. Colville Memorial Foundation had awarded \$2,000 to support Sitka's High School Art Scholarship Program. This program, going into its third year in 2013, offers scholarships to students from local high schools so that they can take workshops and experience immersion-style arts education at the Sitka Center. An earlier grant from the Colville Foundation provided the catalyst for Sitka to launch the scholarship program in 2011.

The William T. Colville Memorial Foundation, based in Santa Barbara, CA was established to support and encourage artists in furthering their artistic endeavors in ways that reflect the interest, passions and spirit of the late William T. Colville.

Discussing the significance of the three recent grants to Sitka's mission, Executive Director Jalene Case said, "These grants are vital to our ability to nurture multiple generations of artists—from the budding high school jewelry designer to the professional sculptor or musician. Having this kind of support means we can afford to experiment with new workshops and extend the reach of our arts programming to underserved communities."

Committed to expanding the relationships between art, nature and humanity, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is renowned for its workshop and residency programs. Exploration of the coastal environment has remained a key component to the Center's vitality. Located near Cascade Head, with views of the Pacific Ocean, the Sitka Center offers a place where artists, writers, environmental scientists and musicians of all abilities and backgrounds come to nourish and inspire their creativity, which ripples out into our world making it a brighter place for all. For more details visit [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org).

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